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The Dallas Morning News

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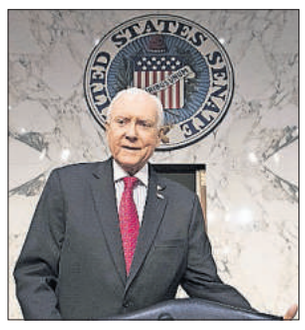

Sen. Hatch won't seek re-election

Sen. Orrin Hatch announced Tuesday that he would retire and forego an eighth term representing Utah. The decision could open the door to a return to public office by Mitt Romney. **8A**

POLITICS

Record number of women seek office

Experts say 2018 on track to be historic year as many vie for chance 'to demand better'

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Inside a classroom on the campus of a community college in downtown Dallas, a group of two dozen women took turns sharing their names, hometowns and what they hoped would be their future titles.

Congresswoman. Dallas County judge. State representative.

It was part of a training held by EMILY's List, an organization dedicated to electing women at all levels

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LM Otero/The Associated Press

Stephanie Schriock, president of EMILY's List, says women come to the group's website and Facebook page and say, "I am mad as hell. I want to do something about it."

IRAN PROTESTS

Trump blasts Tehran

President says government blocking communications, lays pathway to sanctions

FROM WIRE REPORTS

The Trump administration accused the Iranian government Tuesday of blocking or suppressing communications used by anti-government protesters and began laying groundwork for new international sanctions targeting alleged human rights abuses.

As the protests continued for the sixth day, the Trump administration attempted to grasp whether discontent would spiral into a full-fledged uprising or be smothered in government suppression. The demonstrations began over economic grievances, but quickly turned political as people in cities and towns around the nation chanted broadly anti-government slogans.

U.S. officials from the White House to the State Department to the United Nations hastened to respond, calling for Tehran to respect its citizens' rights to protest peacefully while suggesting the government could be responsible for a death toll that rose to more than 20. In preparation, the administration began rallying support for an emergency Security Council meeting that could impose human rights sanctions on

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Photos by David Woo/Staff Photographer

Whiteout in Allen

Despite the recent freezing temperatures across North Texas, the chances for snow were minimal. But you wouldn't know that by watching Jeramy Melchiorre and his family romp through a homemade winter wonderland in their Allen backyard. On Tuesday, Melchiorre engaged in a snowball fight with his son Christian, 9, while his other son, Jude, 12, and niece Emmaline Gibson, 6, played in the man-made snow. Melchiorre created the whiteout by using a mister and a power washer. "They asked me for a white Christmas, and I was a week late, but I came through." (**Nation in grips of deep freeze, 5A**)

VIEW A VIDEO of the Melchiorres enjoying their fresh powder. **dallasnews.com**

KOREAN PENINSULA

Trump tweets to taunt Kim

President says his nuclear button is 'much bigger'

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — President Trump again raised the prospect of nuclear war with North Korea on Tuesday night, boasting that he commands a "much bigger" and "more powerful" arsenal of devastating weapons than the outlier government in Asia.

"North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the 'Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times,'" Trump wrote on Twitter. "Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

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ASSET FORFEITURES

Feds, families fight over dead defendants' cash

Experts say it's hard to prove that an inheritance is clean

By KEVIN KRAUSE
Staff Writer
kkrause@dallasnews.com

When Linda Hodges' husband died last year, she received an inheritance worth about $4 million, federal court records say.

The Farmers Branch woman deposited the "cash hoard" into bank accounts, according to a civil forfeiture lawsuit. Her lawyer said in court documents that she was not aware of "any illegal activity that could have generated the large amount of cash."

But federal authorities seem to have their own idea of where the money came from. They prosecuted Robert Roy Hodges, 74, several years ago for his role in an illegal online gambling operation. He pleaded guilty in 2013 and was sentenced to a year of probation and forced to forfeit $1.2 million in gambling proceeds, according to the U.S. attorney's office and published reports.

About three months after Robert Hodges' death in June 2016, the government seized the $4 million from Linda Hodges, court records show. In March, the U.S. attorney's office filed a forfeiture lawsuit against the money, and both sides are now trying to work out a settlement. Details of the government's claim against the cash are in a sealed affidavit. Records indicate

See **'INNOCENT OWNER'** Page 2A

NATION & WORLD

Census request stirs backlash

A request by the Justice Department to ask people about their citizenship status in the 2020 census is stirring a broad backlash. **4A**

Videos show gunman calling 911

Videos made by the man who shot and killed a Colorado sheriff's deputy after concerns were raised about his mental health show the gunman calling 911 and then talking to responding officers before the shooting. **4A**

BUSINESS

More come clean on climate change

A growing number of companies are embracing the trend to disclose the risks climate change posed to its business without the threat of a messy proxy fight. **1D**

School building getting new use

Developers who are knocking down parts of the former Dallas Independent School District campus on Ross Avenue are saving the central building. **1D**

METRO & STATE

DISD official headed to Cedar Hill

The administrator who was supposed to help Dallas ISD create more specialty campuses is leaving after less than a year for Cedar Hill. **1B**

SPORTSDAY

Don't expect changes for Cowboys

Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said he believes the team is good enough to make the playoffs — so don't expect many changes. **1C**

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Mostly sunny, cold

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L 19

Metro, back page

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